



Edward Hines, Jr. VAMC

**Pharmacy Practice
Residency**

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EDU/pharm.asp](http://www.visn12.med.va.gov/Hines/EDU/pharm.asp)

Edward Hines, Jr. VAMC Pharmacy Practice Residency Frequently Asked Questions & Program Information 2005

***We Embrace Our Veteran's Healthcare
Needs, One Veteran at a Time***

Hines VA Medical Center, located just minutes from downtown Chicago, provides care to 53,000 veterans. The residency program develops the resident into a versatile practitioner able to excel in clinical pharmacy practice, pharmacotherapy education, and administrative practice through active participation in a variety of settings.

Clinical experiences available to residents include:

- **Ambulatory Care**
- **Anticoagulation**
- **Drug Information**
- **Endocrinology**
- **Geriatrics**
- **Home Based Primary Care**
- **Infectious Diseases**
- **Internal Medicine/Extended Care**
- **Nephrology**
- **Nutrition Support/Critical Care**
- **Pain Management**
- **Psychiatry**

Residents precept pharmacy students from the University of Illinois, participate in journal clubs, perform formal presentations, and provide in-service education to staff. Administrative practice includes discussions with supervisory personnel and limited distribution responsibilities. Completion of a research project is required and publication is encouraged.

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Medical Center Pharmacy Practice Residency

Frequently Asked Questions & Program Information

Where is Hines VAMC located?

Hines VAMC is located just west of the border of Chicago and less than a half-hour drive from downtown using the Eisenhower Expressway. The campus is also accessible by public transportation. Hines is located on federal land and is large enough that it is not located within a major city. We are located next to Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Illinois, and have many affiliated practitioners.

For more information on where Hines is located and travel information please go to our website:
www.vishn12.med.va.gov/Hines/EDU/pharm.asp

How many residents are recruited?

We currently recruit three residents per year.

How many applicants typically apply each year?

We receive approximately 25 applications each year.

Is the Hines Pharmacy Practice Residency ASHP accredited?

Yes.

What is the starting date and length of the residency program?

The residency program starts on July 1st. It is one year in length like all other pharmacy practice residencies.

Is the starting date flexible?

Unfortunately, a flexible starting date is not feasible because of funding constraints, aggressive orientation schedule, and some of our residency requirements such as presenting a completed research project at the Great Lakes Residency Showcase in April.

Are there basic requirements?

Yes, residents must be United States Citizens, have a Doctor of Pharmacy degree or equivalent experience, and possess a pharmacy license in any U.S. state.

What are the required rotations?

Required rotations include: Internal Medicine, Ambulatory/Primary Care, Home Based Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, and longitudinal experiences in Anticoagulation Clinic and Patient Discharge Counseling. Residents participate in one of the longitudinal clinics for six months, one-half day a week. After six months, the resident will switch to the other longitudinal clinic.

What elective rotations can I choose from? What elective rotations are offered?

Residents may choose two modules for elective rotations. The electives currently available include Critical Care and Nutrition, Psychiatry, Nephrology, Drug Information, and Advance Ambulatory Care (potential clinic sites: geriatrics, psychiatry, pain, infectious diseases, nephrology, endocrinology, anticoagulation, as well as general medicine/primary care clinics). We have also developed resident exchange programs with several Chicago area Medical Centers allowing Hines VA residents to experience practice setting not available at the Hines VAMC. In the past residents have rotated through Rush University Medical Center as well as the University of Illinois Medical Center.

How long are the rotations?

Each rotation will be either six or eight weeks depending on the specific rotation requirements. The length of rotation may vary based on a resident's ability to become efficient in the respective area.

Do residents get time out of their scheduled rotations devoted to completing their residency project?

Yes. The month of December is reserved for the resident to work on their residency research or for other project they may have pending. There are no rotations scheduled during this time except the longitudinal experience.

Are there required activities?

During the residency a resident will learn to think critically about published literature and become adept at presenting this information in a variety of formats. Two journal clubs will be conducted by each resident in discussion format with the clinical pharmacy staff. During the staffing component of the residency, a half-hour inservice will be given to the pharmacy staff. Two formal presentations are performed in seminar format giving updates on new or controversial pharmacotherapeutic topics to the clinical pharmacy staff. The residency research project will require presentation at that Great Lakes Pharmacy Resident Conference using PowerPoint presentation software. The resident will also be asked to write an article describing their research in publication format and quality. Several past residents have had their research posters accepted by international meetings and had their articles published in peer-reviewed medical journals. Residents are also asked to write at least one article for the Pharmacy Services Newsletter.

Do the residents precept pharmacy students?

Yes. Residents will have several opportunities to interact with pharmacy students from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy during most of the rotations. Direct precepting responsibilities is expected of the resident during their Ambulatory/Primary Care modules, however there could be other opportunities for direct involvement with pharmacy students throughout the program year.

Does the residency have a staffing component?

Yes. Part of a well-rounded quality pharmacy practice residency program includes some element of drug distribution (staffing) in order to fully appreciate the complete process of drug delivery to patients. Pharmacy residents are required to work in the inpatient pharmacy one day per week during the Home Based Primary Care rotation. The total number of days a resident will be asked to work in a distributive function is eight full days for the residency year.

Is BCLS/ACLS training mandatory? Is there an "on-call" program? Is there "code-blue" responsibility?

No.

What is the salary offered for residents?

\$35,000 per year paid every two weeks.

What benefits are offered?

A variety of insurance options are available (e.g. medical)

10 paid holidays, 13 vacation days, and 13 sick days

Laboratory coats

Each resident has a personal computer, desk, and phone.

The residents share a large office area for themselves.

Travel vouchers for reduced rate travel on mass transit system for commute to and from Hines

Meeting cost reimbursement for ASHP Midyear Meeting and the Great Lakes Residency Conference

Medical Library with electronic journal access

Free parking

Post office on grounds

What patient record system is used at Hines?

All records are electronic and in computerized format. This allows more efficient and effective treatment of patients as well as simplified data collection for residency project. Drug information resources are widely available on the network. The VA is recognized as one of the most progressive agencies in the federal government at integrating technology into practice.

What are the names of the current residents? Can I contact them?

Justin Schmidt, Pharm.D. and Jeffrey Wiczorkiewicz, Pharm.D. are the current pharmacy practice residents. They look forward to discussing the program with candidates from a resident's perspective. Residency candidates can email them or call them directly in their office at the contact information below:

Justin Schmidt: Justin.Schmidt@med.va.gov, Phone: 708-202-8387 ext. 24933

Jeffrey Wiczorkiewicz: Jeffrey.Wiczorkiewicz@med.va.gov, Phone: 708-202-8387 ext. 24926

For more information please contact Dr. Joan Cannon at the information provided on the cover sheet

Mission Statement for Pharmacy Service (Fiscal Year 2004)

The mission of the pharmacy Service is to provide pharmaceutical care to all patients through the responsible provision of drug therapy, for the purpose of achieving positive outcomes that improve the quality of life of our patients. This mission is accomplished by the effective integration of clinical practice with distributive services.

Specific functions performed to accomplish this mission shall include the following:

1. To provide leadership in the development of organizational standards concerning medication use at the local, VISN, and national levels.
2. To provide guidance in the appropriate selection, administration, monitoring, and anticipated outcomes of medication therapy.
3. To identify and prevent potential drug-related problems and to resolve actual drug-related problems that occur.
4. To effectively procure, distribute and assure proper control of drugs and medical supplies and equipment used within Hines Hospital and VISN 12.
5. To evaluate and disseminate information about drugs and their proper use to patients and patients' families, the medical staff, and other health care practitioners.
6. To participate in the education and training of health care practitioners regarding drugs and drug therapy, and to promote the pharmaceutical care philosophy of practice.
7. To initiate and support medical, pharmaceutical and administrative research, and to report findings through presentations at professional meetings and publishing in the medical and pharmaceutical literature.

Vision Statement for Pharmacy Service (Revised February 2004)

The vision of Pharmacy Service at Hines VA Hospital is to consistently provide the right drug to the right patient at the right time at an affordable cost.

Statement of Values for Pharmacy Service (Revised February 2004)

Hines' Pharmacy Service values innovation, safety, accuracy, efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness.